Reviews the Administration Report of the Revenue Department for the year 1928-29.

READ—

Letter No. C. Per A. 15—29-30, dated 10th October 1929, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, forwarding the report *on the Administration of the Revenue Department for the year 1928-29.

*(Printed as an Annexure.)

ORDER No. R. 4968-5027—L. R. 86-29-5, DATED 17TH JANUARY 1930.

Mr. P. G. D'Souza, continued as Revenue Commissioner in Mysore throughout the year, except for a short period of 12 days from the 6th to the 17th May 1929, when he was absent on privilege leave and Mr. R. A. Narasimha Iyengar, First Assistant to the Revenue Commissioner, was in charge. There were changes of Deputy Commissioners in all the Districts except Hassan and Kadur.

2. *Rainfall and seasonal conditions.*—Though the rainfall was fairly up to the average, it was in several parts of the State untimely and not properly distributed. The long drought in the months of August and September affected the crops, everywhere and caused great anxiety but the showers of October relieved the situation considerably. Owing to the inadequacy of the rainfall in parts of the Bagepalli, Goribidnur, Siddlaghatta, Kolar and Mulbagal Taluks and the Gudibanda Sub-Taluk there was a failure of wet crops under several tanks and remission of half wet assessment amounting to Rs. 24,805-2-11 was sanctioned. In the Mysore District, owing to some of the major tanks not receiving an adequate supply, a sum of Rs. 19,059-14-7 was remitted. A similar remission to the extent of Rs. 2,769-4-7 was sanctioned in respect of wet lands in parts of Challakere and Molakalmuru Taluks. Wells were also deepened in the Challakere and Parasurampura Hoblis of the Challakere Taluk, and State Forests were thrown open to free grazing for three months to relieve the fodder scarcity in the Hosdurga Taluk. These various measures helped to a large extent to relieve the situation in the affected parts.

3. *Cultivation.*—A total extent of 47,160 acres with an assessment of Rs. 53,147 was taken up during the year as against 46,292 acres with an assessment of Rs. 45,593 during the previous year; and an extent of 23,005 acres bearing an assessment of Rs. 32,719 was relinquished, as against 20,968 acres with an assessment of Rs. 23,872 last year. On the whole the area under occupation increased during the year by 24,155 acres as against 25,324 during the previous year. The net area cropped during the year was 65,30,420 acres as against 64,57,389 in 1927-28.

4. *Darkhasts.*—The total number of darkhasts which came up for disposal during the year was 29,856 including 7,781 darkhasts pending at the beginning of the year. Out of these 22,920 were disposed off 13,574 by grant and 9,346 by rejection, leaving over a balance of 6,936 at the end of the year. The percentage of disposals for the whole State was 76·76 as against 73·88, in the previous year. There was a fall in the Tumkur and Mysore Districts, the percentages of disposals being 67·9 per cent and 77 per cent only respectively, as against 73·62 per cent and 83·81 per cent in the year previous. The number of darkhasts pending for over two years was 256 as against 302 in the previous year. In the Bangalore, Tumkur, Mysore, Shimoga and Kadur Districts an aggregate area of 40,837 acres 18 guntas was disposed off for cultivation and a sum of Rs. 3,18,902 was realised. The amount secured in the other Districts amounted to nearly Rs. 80,000 giving the total realisation at Rs. 4 lakhs and the total assessment recoverable on the lands amounted to Rs. 41,632 for all the Districts except Mysore for which the figures have not been furnished by the Deputy Commissioner.

5. *Grant of lands to depressed classes.*—One thousand five hundred and thirty darkhasts were pending at the beginning of the year while 2,979 were received during the year making up a total of 4,509. Of these, 3,130 were disposed off leaving a balance of 1,379. The total area granted comprised 17,057 acres 5 guntas.

6. *Avenue Trees and Topes.*—The number of avenue trees planted during the year was 91,074 as against 84,800 in the previous year, 14,166 were planted on the occasion of the Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja. Three nurseries—two in T.-Narsipur and one in Chikmagalur Taluk are stated to have supplied a good many varieties of plants to village panchayets for being planted as avenue trees.

7. *Accidental fires.*—The number of accidental fires during the year was 442 as against 491 in the year previous. The number of human lives lost was 24 and the value of cattle and property destroyed Rs. 2,27,516-6-0. As usual the largest numbers of these accidents (102) and the heaviest loss (Rs. 1,53,418-6-0) occurred in the Shimoga District. Relief in deserving cases was given. Takavi loans to the extent of Rs. 3,500 were granted in the Shimoga District. With a view to minimise the increasing frequency of these accidental fires, the measures laid down in Government Order No. R. 4791-4850—R. M. 3-27-50, dated 10th—11th December 1928, for building tiled houses, should be given proper and wide publicity all over the State by the Deputy Commissioners.

8. *Jamabandy, Demand, Collection and Balance.*—The Jamabandy was completed before the end of February only in the Districts of Kolar, Hassan and Chitaldrug. The delay in the other Districts is stated to be due to special causes.

The total demand for the year under Land revenue including miscellaneous and arrears at the beginning of the year was Rs. 14,497,079 against 141,79,944 in the year 1927-28. The total demand under current land revenue proper increased by Rs. 71,157 and by Rs. 3,43,039, under land revenue miscellaneous, the total increase under both the items amounting to Rs. 4,14,196 as compared to Rs. 2,31,614 in the previous year. The increase in current demand under land revenue proper is mainly due to the expansion of cultivation and to the introduction of revised rates of assessment in T.-Narsipur Taluk. The whole of the current demand was collected in the Davangere Taluk and the Harihar Sub-Taluk, and over 99 per cent in the Holalkere, Gundlupet, Nelamangala and Anekal Taluks. In 36 Taluks and Sub-Taluks the collection under current demand was 95 per cent and over. The total amount collected during the year including arrears was in excess of the amount for the previous year by Rs. 2,29,690, while the balance at the end of the year (10,02,734) was less than that at the beginning by Rs. 81,122. The percentage of total collections to the total demand for the year was 93·34 as against 93·0 in the previous year. Heavy arrears are outstanding in the Districts of Mysore (3,88,701), Hassan (1,29,507), Tumkur (99,986) and Bangalore (95,109). These amounts should be collected early.

9. *Execution of Co-operative Societies decrees.*—Out of a total number of 3,120 decrees for Rs. 5,15,586-15-9 that had to be executed during the year under report, 1,719 decrees involving Rs. 2,71,006-3-6 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 1,401 cases involving Rs. 2,44,580-12-3 pending, as against 1,360 decrees involving a sum of Rs. 2,09,808-13-5 at the end of the previous year.

10. *Coercive processes.*—There was a decrease in the total number of coercive processes issued from 1,50,970 in the year previous to 1,34,547, the amount recovered without issue of any process being 87·08 per cent of the demand, and the remaining 12·92 per cent having been recovered by the adoption of the several processes; while 82·4 per cent of the total recoveries under this head was secured by merely issuing notices of demand.

11. *Loans and Advances.*—Out of a sum of Rs. 1,93,800 provided in the Budget for the year under review under the above heads, a sum of Rs. 1,93,500 was distributed among the several districts and loans amounting to Rs. 1,85,542 were actually disbursed to the parties during the year. Under Takavi, there were 1,041 applications for a sum of Rs. 1,95,723 as against 1,464 applications for Rs. 2,08,407 in the previous year. The percentage of collection to the demand however was only 53·04 as against 54·5 in the previous year and 66·63 in the year 1926-27. This is very unsatisfactory. The Revenue Commissioner is once more requested to issue instructions to the Deputy Commissioners to promptly collect the loans and advances that are already overdue and to arrange for the proper recovery of the amounts as they fall due.

12. *Takarar cases.*—Including the arrears of previous years, 21,557 cases were dealt with during the year. Of these, 14,674 cases were disposed off, leaving a balance of 6,883 at the close of the year, the percentage of disposal being 68·07 as against 66·61 in the year previous. Though there has been some improvement in the disposal of these cases as compared with that of the previous year, Government are constrained to observe that the percentage is not up to the required standard.

13. *Record of Rights.*—The Record of Rights Scheme was introduced in the Taluks of Kolar, T.-Narsipur, Holalkere, Tumkur, Koppa including Narasimharajapura Sub-Taluk, and Manjarabad including Alur Sub-Taluk. The number of hisses recorded in the several Taluks is as noted below:—

Name of Taluk	Full Survey No.	Phut Hisses
Kolar	61170	(Includes Phut Hisses also)
T.-Narsipur	9233	51612
Holalkere	33363	(Includes Phut Hisses also)
Tumkur ..	64000	Do
Koppa including Narasimharajapura Sub-Taluk.	13681	5859
Manjarabad (including Alur Sub-Taluk.)	23749	76596

The fee demand for all the Taluks and Sub-Taluks including the Taluks of Bangalore, Sagar, Davangere and Harihar Sub-Taluk was Rs. 6,50,657-8-0, the collection being Rs. 1,18,875-5-5 (or nearly 18 per cent) and the balance Rs. 5,31,782-2-7. The total expenditure incurred up to end of June 1929 was Rs. 27,863-11-2. With a view to carry on Survey Operations expeditiously rules for conducting Hissa Survey Operations were issued under Notification No. R. 8635—L. S. 2-28-138, dated 20th April 1929. To improve the efficiency of the existing measurers of the Survey Department, and to train up new recruits and also officers of the Revenue Department a Survey Training School was sanctioned tentatively for one year in Government Order No. R. 10381-91—L. S. 22-28-11, dated 28th June 1929. Government are glad to note that the scheme has continued to be popular with the raiyats.

14. *Special Schemes* (a) *Village Panchayets.*—Eight thousand eight hundred and ninety five Village Panchayets and 205 hamlets were constituted up to the end of the year under report. Action was taken by 8,616 Village Panchayets to levy the obligatory taxes under section 36 of the Village Panchayet Regulation and by 250 Village Panchayets to levy the optional taxes under section 37 of the Village Panchayet Regulation. Village Panchayet Conferences were held in most of the Taluks, and District Panchayet Conferences were also got up which were largely attended by delegates from all the Village Panchayets. Some roadside villages in each Hobli were selected for being transferred into model Village Panchayets. The system of contributing weekly labour seems to have been in vogue in 3655 panchayets only. This must be made a regular feature of the work of every panchayet. It is stated by the Revenue Commissioner that the villagers have began to realise the usefulness of the Village Panchayet Institutions, and that they are evincing considerable enthusiasm in the discharge of the several duties entrusted to them under the scheme. Government are also glad to note that a Court was organised in connection with this scheme during the Dasara Exhibition in 1929.

(b) *Village Forests.*—At the end of the year there were 207 Village Forests with an area of 56,681 acres as against 185 with an area of 54,276 acres at the end of the previous year. But the working of these forest panchayets has not shown any marked and decided improvement still, after the lapse of so many years.

(c) *Tank Panchayets.*—The number of tank panchayets at the end of the year under report was 126 as against 124 at the end of the year previous. The working of these Panchayets has continued to be as unsatisfactory during the year under review as in the previous years. Government await with interest the result of transferring the management of selected tanks to village panchayets in chosen areas, and the proposals of the Revenue Commissioner to galvanise these local bodies into renewed activity.

15. *Conferences.*—District Conferences were held during the year at the District Headquarters in all the Districts except Bangalore and Chitaldrug where they were held in July 1929. Rajamantrapravina Mr. C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Member of Council, opened the District Conference at Bangalore and presided over those held at Hassan and Chikmagalur. With the exception of a few Taluks in Bangalore, Shimoga and Kadur Districts, conferences were held in all the remaining Taluks. Major and minor wants were discussed and lectures on topics of general interest, such as child

welfare, co-operation were delivered by the Officers of Government. Practical demonstrations in weaving, etc., were also made. Exhibitions of indigenous products including those of the Mysore Iron Works at Bhadravati, were held at Chikmagalur, Kolar and Shimoga. Baby shows were successfully organised at Tumkur and Shimoga.

16. *Tanks.*—Three hundred and sixty-one major and 542 minor tanks were either restored or repaired at a cost of Rs. 3,28,776 and Rs. 2,53,478, respectively. The Deputy Commissioner, Kolar, inspected 166 tanks, both major and minor. He has not furnished the number under each class. This information should be invariably given. The remaining Deputy Commissioners inspected 189 major and 252 minor tanks during the year. The Sub-Division Officers inspected 422 major and 983 minor tanks. This information has not been furnished by the Sub-Division Officers of the Tumkur District. Such omissions should be avoided in future.

17. *Provincial Toll-gates.*—Out of the 29 new toll-gates that were established from 1st March 1928 on the provincial roads in addition to the 19 old toll-gates, one gate on the Mysore-Coorg Road in the Hunsur Taluk was abolished with effect from 1st July 1928, thus reducing the number of toll-gates to 47. The sales of the right to collect tolls at these gates realised a sum of Rs. 2,08,873 during the year, as against Rs. 83,647 in the previous year. Four District gates were transferred to State Funds during the year.

18. *Inspections.*—All the Deputy Commissioners of Districts toured for more than the prescribed minimum number of days, *viz.*, 120 days. The number of village accounts examined by the Deputy Commissioners of Tumkur and Mysore is inadequate while the Deputy Commissioners of Bangalore and Tumkur are stated to have turned out deficient work as regards the examination of the raiyats' receipt books during Jamabandy. In spite of remarks made in last year's review the touring of and the work turned out by the Sub-Division Officers is still not up to standard. Inspections tend to be formal, and the Amildars do not seem to receive real guidance in taluk work at their hands. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to see that the defects are rectified.

19. *Changes in Administrative Divisions.*—Orders were passed in Government Order No. R. 1932-99—L. R. 90-29-2, dated 12th September 1929, directing that the Treasury Officers in charge of Hassan, Kolar and Shimoga Taluks should be relieved of their Taluk charges with effect from 1st October 1929 to enable them to devote sufficient time and attention to the inspection work of their divisions. The question of the reduction of hoblis was considered, and orders were issued in Government Order No. R. 1120—L. R. 577-28-5, dated 6th August 1929, directing the abolition of 15 hoblis in the State with effect from 1st October 1929. The transfer of 16 villages from the Chelur to the Pathapalya Hobli in Bagepalli Taluk was also ordered in Government Order No. R. 9202-5—L. R. 474-28-2, dated 6th May 1929. The Kortagere Sub-Taluk was ordered to be formed into a Taluk from 1st January 1929. The abolition of Turuvekere Sub-Taluk ordered in Government Order No. R. 2212-79—L. R. 156-27-44, dated 10th September 1928, was ordered to be held in abeyance pending further orders in the matter. A new Sub-Taluk was constituted at Periyapatna with effect from 1st January 1929 temporarily for a period of two years. A separate Amildar was appointed for Bangalore City with jurisdiction over Kasaba and Yesavanthapur Hoblis to facilitate despatch of work, in Government Order No. R. 1205-64—L. R. 524-27-6, dated 10th August 1928. The formation of new Sub-Divisions in the Tumkur and the Kadur Districts to relieve the District Treasury Officers of their taluk charges, and the formation of a new taluk with Maddur as Head Quarters to cope with the extra work consequent on the expansion of irrigation under the Irwin Canal are matters which are under the active consideration of Government.

20. *Miscellaneous.*—The Revenue Commissioner disposed of 632 appeals, while Government dealt with 188 appeals and revision applications during the year under review. The Inspector of Office Systems inspected seven District Offices, three Sub-Division Offices and sixteen Taluk Offices during the year and the notes of inspection in respect of twenty offices were sent to the Revenue Commissioner for necessary action.

21. *Recruitment and Training of Officials.*—The recruitment rules were revised by Government in their Order No. R. 3567-3652—C. R. B. 12-28-1, dated 10th October 1928. Under these revised rules the classes of appointments were revised and the minimum educational qualification for posts carrying a pay of Rs. 25 and above has

been prescribed to be a pass in the S.S.L.C., Examination. The question of revising suitably the different scales of pay of the establishment of the Revenue Department has been under the consideration of Government for some time past, and a Committee was therefore recently appointed to go into the matter. On receipt of the Report of the Committee, Government issued orders in Government Order No. R. 1305-14—L. R. 105-28-104, dated 13th August 1929, sanctioning the reorganisation of the Revenue Establishments in respect of officials drawing Rs. 50 and below, with effect from 1st October 1929.

Ten Revenue Inspectors were appointed during the year, of whom 7 belong to the Backward Communities. Government have issued orders in Government Order No. R. 4674-84—L. R. 192-28-10, dated 6th December 1928, directing the training of Probationary Inspectors in Agriculture also. The total period of their training has thus been fixed at one year and three months. Training has been made compulsory for patels also in Government Order No. R. 1147-63—L. R. 231-27-151, dated 9th—10th August 1928. Twelve persons for pateli and 23 for shanbhogi training were admitted into the class in the Bangalore District; and nine pateli and 19 shanbhogi candidates were found to have satisfied the test at the end of the course. No patels and shanbhogs were trained in the Mysore District during the year. The question of opening classes in Shimoga, Hassan and Chitaldrug Districts is under the consideration of Government.

22. *General.*—On the representation of the planting community of the malnad about the rigidity and harshness of the revised coffee and tea rules they were revised once again in Government Order No. R. 2692—L. R. 445-28-18, dated 7th October 1929. The power to grant extensions to District Sheristedars and Head Clerks of District Offices is now vested in the Revenue Commissioner, as per Government Order No. R. 8160-8219—L. R. 457-28-2, dated 11th April 1929. In Government Order No. R. 8360-419—L. R. 526-28-2, dated 18th April 1929, the Revenue Commissioner has also been empowered to pass final orders in respect of the clubbing of adjacent revenue villages in cosultation with the Survey Superintendent, only cases in which the two officers disagree being submitted for the orders of Government. The draft Irrigation Bill submitted by the Committee constituted in Government Order No. R. 632-6—L. R., dated 31st July 1926 was placed before the Assembly during the last October Session. It has now to be piloted through the Legislative Council. The suitable amendment of the record of rights regulation to provide for the maintenance of the preliminary record up-to-date, before incorporation into the final record, is under the consideration of Government. The question of amending the Land Revenue Code with a view to make due statutory provision for review applications being dealt with by revenue officers, and to effect certain other necessary alterations to facilitate the working of the revenue procedure, has also been taken up. The system of levying tolls on agricultural carts except those that carry timber for commercial purposes has been done away within Government Order No. R. 87-98—R. M. 81-28-6, dated 15th June 1929. An up-to-date edition of the Land Revenue Code incorporating the latest amendments to the regulation is under print. A new edition of the Land Revenue Rules incorporating the amendments up to the end of June 1929 is also under print. The Land Revenue Code has been translated into Kannada and the rules are also under translation.

23. Government are pleased to record their appreciation of the manner in which Mr. D'Souza conducted the administration of the Department during the year.

N. MADHAVA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.